Anti-Fascist Action

NO BLOOD MONEY

STOP THE SALE OF FASCIST PROPAGANDA AT 'BADGE SALES'

The purpose of this campaign is to stop the flow of blood money into the coffers of the fascist movement.

We now know that Blood and Honour , the neo-nazi youth movement, have used Badge Sales (at 83, Berwick St,. London, W.1.) since 1988 as a warehouse and distribution centre for their merchandise. Thousands of nazi T-shirts are stored in their basement warehouse and upstairs a wide range of swastikas, celtic crosses, white power badges, and SS flashes are available.

Mr. Smith, who runs Badge Sales, is on first name terms with Ian Stuart, the leader of Blood and Honour, and now we discover he is also doing business with C-18, the self-styled fascist paramilitary group.

Mr. Smith does not just do business with fascists, he is also happy to employ them. Andrea, well known on the Blood and Honour circuit works in the shop, and members of Badge Sales staff have also been seen working on the merchandise stalls at Blood and Honour gigs around the country.

While it is possible that Mr. Smith is just in it for the money, it is up to him, and Badge Sales, to prove they are not fascist sympathisers involved with raising large sums of money for the Extreme Right.

When AFA initially approached Mr. Smith about the sale of Blood and Honour material he denied ever having sold it, however, in a letter he wrote to AFA, dated 29.4.93, he claims, "The loss in sales of such designs as Skrewdriver etc., is of no consequence to us and is not worth the hassle, or the intimidation of our employees, and so I have removed from sale any such items and instructed the staff that we are no longer to buy them."

Much of the offending merchandise was temporarily removed from the shop when AFA picketed Badge Sales on 12th May '93. However, we do not believe a man who has made so much money out of the sale of fascist merchandise since 1988 will suddenly stop selling the merchandise on the strength of one anti-fascist picket.

When AFA launched a similar campaign against the sale of Blood and Honour merchandise in Carnaby St. in 1989, the two shops involved (Cutdown and Merc M) also said they had stopped selling fascist merchandise. In both cases they were lying and only stopped selling fascist merchandise after a forceful campaign. We need a lot more proof than one letter before the campaign is called off, and the onus of proof is on them.

As we said in 1989, at the start of the campaign against the Carnaby St. shops, "We are sick of people such as shop-keepers and pub landlords who, while claiming not to be nazi sympathisers, are happy to make money out of them. As far as we're concerned you are either for them or against them, and if you're against fascism - have nothing to do with them."

The same applies today.

Badge Sales have been living off Blood Money for 6 years. There is a price to pay.

BLOOD & HONOUR

Blood and Honour are a music and youth culture organisation based on extreme right wing politics, or as they wrote in one of their magazine editorials "We will follow the example of the one uncorruptable ideal: National Socalism, and its great martyr Adolf Hitler." Blood and Honour first appeared in 1987 after a split wiht the National Front cultural wing White Noise. The split occured through a political disagreement (the NF weren't Nazi enough) and a dispute over money.

The current leadership of Blood and Honour are Ian Stuart Donaldson, singer with the notorious band Skrewdriver and Paul Burnley (Bellamy), singer with No Remorse. Blood and Honour not only justifies fascist violence but leading members also participate in unprovoked attacks. Ian Stuart has served a sentence for attacking an elderly black man. Members of Skrewdriver are facing charges in Cottbus, East Germany, after an attack on a community centre in October 1991, and the subsequent stabbing of a student.

English Rose, another Blood and Honour band, explain their absence from the the music scene in their January 93 Newsletter, "It has been a long 14 months since English Rose last played live on the White Power scene, and believe us we've missed it. Following our last gig back in November 1991, there was a bit of trouble with local wogs, which resulted in the band being arrested for violent disorder and a little spell in HMP Pentonville being thrown our way."

Apart from their own violence they also support the violence of others such as the loyalist terror group, the UDA in northern Ireland. They also openly endorse the South African neo-nazi AWB and they have gone as far as adopting their three 7's symbol.

The sale of Blood and Honour merchandise is run on a semi-clandestine basis due to campaigns by Anti-Fascist Action to stop the sale of their goods in central London shops. Their merchandise is now sold individually by mail order or in quantity by sympathetic wholesalers like Badge Sales. In February two brothers Roy and Kevin Johnson, who sold Blood and Honour records (No Remorse, Skrewdriver, Squadron and Sudden Impact) through a mail order service, were jailed for six months for incitement to racial hatred. T-shirts for the named bands are available under the counter in Badge Sales.

The vast majority of money for Blood and Honour money comes through the sale of their merchandise. The worldwide sales of this material raises hundreds of thousand of pounds. AFA believes it is essential to cut off Blood and Honour's access to this money. The campaign which has recently started will bring pressure upon Badge Sales and other outlets in the London area which are actively promoting Blood and Honour.

(left) Blood and Honours Ian Stuart showing he's not a nazi!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Boycott Badge Sales. If you have any dealings with this shop - take your business elsewhere.
- If you know anyone else who deals with Badge Sales, let us know.
- Get your organisation to write to Westminister Council demanding an end to the sale of fascist propaganda.
- Do you know any other outlets for Blood and Honour material in your area? Let us know.

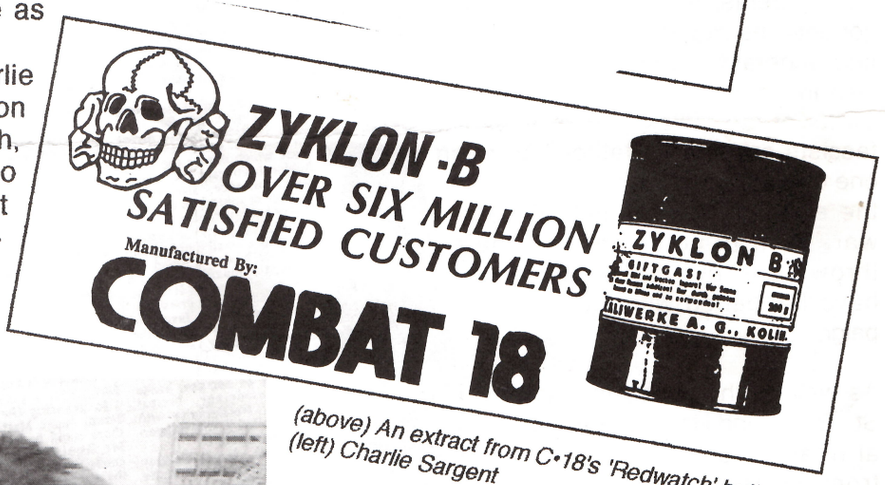
Contact Anti-Fascist Action at:

BM 1734, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

C·18

COMBAT · ADOLF HITLER

C-18 is the self-styled fascist paramilitary group which was exposed by 'World in Action' and Searchlight magazine in April 1993.
Launched in early 1992, it is made up of activists from all the main groups on the extreme Right, and is closely connected to the U.D.A.
So far they have attacked Trade Union and left wing activities, smashed up progressive book-shops, and assaulted anti-fascists in their homes. Their strategy is based on political terror - they use the slogan "Let them hate as long as they fear."
One of their main organisers is Charlie Sargent, who was in Badge Sales on 28th April doing business with Mr. Smith, when an AFA delegation arrived to make enquiries. As usual Sargent pulled a knife and made lots of threatening noises until the police arrived and escorted him away.



(above) An extract from C•18's 'Redwatch' bulletin.
(left) Charlie Sargent

Taken from 'Searchlight' Anti-Fascist magazine. April 1993 edition.

"Charlie Sargent, born in 1960, has been an activist since the late 1970's, when he was well known in British Movement circles as a man always ready to pull a knife against his opponents.
In 1978 he was convicted on offensive weapons and threatening behaviour charges and was involved in violent disorders. By 1981 Charlie was revealed to be a drug-pusher as well as a political thug. arrested in Sweden, he was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for importing illegal drugs from Amsterdam. No sooner had he been returned to Britain, then he was arrested again and imprisoned for possession of illegal drugs with intent to supply."
"In 1989 Charlie was fined £300 by Camberwell Magistrates for possession of an offensive weapon."

THE CARNABY STREET CAMPAIGN

How we kicked out 'Blood & Honour' before...

1989 was an active year for AFA in London, and in many ways a successful one. The first half of the year saw a major campaign against the growth of Nazi youth culture around the 'Blood and Honour' organisation. In particular we campaigned to stop the sale of Nazi propaganda in two West End shops, Merc M and Cutdown.
After five months campaigning we had closed down one of the shops and the other one withdrew the offending material. The campaign used a wide variety of tactics which led to a successful conclusion. During the campaign we held a Press Conference in the House of Commons. We had questions asked in Parliament, it was discussed by Westminster Council, we picketed the shops and the pubs they met in nearby, we spoke with local residents, workers and students, we held demonstrations, got petitions signed, got on TV and radio, and generally put pressure on the fascists in any way we could. In the end the owner of the building, who didn't like fascists and whose father had been one of the first British soldiers to enter the extermination camps after the war, went to court and got them thrown out, but that would never have happened without the campaign.

As well as the shops in Carnaby St., Blood and Honour used several nearby pubs where fascists from all over the world would gather. These pubs were leafletted and picketed until the fascists were removed.
We have noticed large groups of fascist skinheads meeting in the Blue Post pub, a few doors down from Badge Sales in Berwick St. We believe this is more than a coincidence and will be monitoring the situation carefully.

Fight won to close Jew's Nazi shop

by Mira Bar-Hillel

DR MICHAEL COIGLEY, who witnessed the full horrors of Nazism when he was among the first liberators to enter the Bergen Belsen death camp at the end of the Second World War, has won a court battle to prevent a shop he owns in the West End of London being used as a base for self-avowed neo-nazis.

On the other side in the case was Mr Andrew Benjamin, a 24-year-old Londoner, many members of whose Jewish family perished in the Treblinka death camp. Last Monday they faced each other in Bloomsbury County Court.

A few months earlier Dr Coigley was shocked to discover that the shop was being used by Mr Benjamin for the sale of Nazi regalia and neo-nazi records, tee-shirts and videos.

Dr Coigley sought the court's help in evicting Mr Benjamin from 40 Riding House Street for breach of a covenant in his lease which debars the leaseholder from causing "annoyance, nuisance, disturbance, damage or injury" to the landlord or his neighbours.

For Dr Coigley's son James, who runs a small building and plumbing business round the corner, the judgment ended a 10-week nightmare. It began when Sunlight Laundries gave up the premises in favour of what was introduced to the Coigleys by their estate agents as a "music retail outlet". They were not to know that the music was by neo-nazi bands like Screwdriver, Brutal Attack and No Remorse with albums called "You Nigger-Loving White Slag".

By March, James Coigley was encountering what he described as "heavy skinheads and intimidating types" near the store, which had added the name "Cutdown" under the plastic Sunlight sign. Some, he later found, were thugs with prison records. Then came anti-fascist demonstrators and police with barriers.

On April 11 he went to a public meeting of the local residents' association. At first he encountered anger and personal attacks. By the end of the evening he had turned the anger into sympathy with his plight — and realised that action against Cutdown was "down to me".

Since then he has done no plumbing or carpentry. Having consulted solicitors and discovered that the covenant was his only chance of getting rid of Mr Benjamin, he spent every hour of every day preparing for the court case. He took hundreds of photographs and interviewed dozens of people, some of whom he had to subpoena.

On May 27 Cutdown became a gathering point for dozens of skinheads and neo-nazis from all over the world heading for an international concert in Gravesend. That night the shop was attacked by anti-fascists with sledgehammers. After a second attack on June 10, Mr Coigley's insurance company said his cover would be revoked unless he installed a watchman at a cost of £100 a day.

In granting the Coigleys' claim, Judge Martin QC said there could be no doubt that Mr Benjamin was selling goods "designed for people of the neo-nazi type and designed to whip up nazi feelings" and that skinheads were attracted to the premises. He pointed out the proximity of the Polytechnic of Central London which has many students from ethnic minorities. "One can imagine their feelings when they see skinheads with Nazi emblems".

Witnesses included a couple who were harassed as they walked by, the man being called "race traitor" and the girl abused. Two girls working at ITN, only 50 yards away, were followed by intimidating drunken skinheads.

Granting possession to the Coigleys and demanding the premises be vacated by noon the next day, the judge said he considered the selling of Cutdown's material in modern Britain to be a very grave matter.

The Coigleys have won but questions remain in their minds. Why has it taken a determined landlord, willing to risk more than £10,000 and spend months pursuing a civil matter in the county court? And what is there to stop Mr Benjamin opening up elsewhere?

Mr Coigley regards Mr Benjamin as "a sick man". Certainly his family have suffered greatly and publicly disowned him. But he is not the issue, says Mr Coigley, who is not a political activist of any hue.

"There ought to be a way of stopping this kind of abuse, and it goes beyond the law. People must assume personal responsibility as well."

As he has? "Well, yes."

And, if he could turn the clock back to March, would he go through it all again? "And again, and again, and again."

Report from the Sunday Telegraph